



What does The Episcopal Church say about civic engagement?

Civic engagement is a key way we live out our faith. We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves, and we recognize that we exercise our faith in the context of relationships, communities, and society. As part of that, The Episcopal Church has long supported nonpartisan voter engagement, as well as advocating for protection and accessibility for all eligible voters. We view this work as an act of Christian stewardship.

Below, find some of the resolutions passed by the church's General Convention and Executive Council related to civic engagement.

General Convention resolutions

- [2024-C026](#): Preserve Religious Liberty: Urges the United States Congress and the state legislatures to refrain from passing laws/legislation that conflict with or interfere with the religious liberty of Episcopalians to practice their faith.
- [2022-C054](#): Advocate for Legislation to Protect and Expand Voting Rights and Access: Support reforms that would expand voter registration, increase voter eligibility, and make voting processes more accessible, eliminate statewide voter ID laws adopted since the 2013 *Shelby County v. Holder* decision, continue advocacy to enact voter protection laws.
- [2022-D043](#): Call on Congress to Abolish or Modernize the Electoral Count Act of 1887: Condemn the January 6, 2021, insurrection and call for Congress to update or reform the Electoral Count Act of 1887 to guard against crises during future Presidential Elections, rectifying several deficiencies in the Electoral Count Act's 130-year-old text, including how it handles: (1) election timing, (2) state determinations, (3) the Vice President's role, (4) objections, and (5) the dispute resolution process. Support the adoption by all states of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished.
- [2022-D063](#): Support Policies to Combat Media Disinformation: Denounce false statements that inflame division and stoke hatred and violence by standing against the spread of false information by media platforms and calling for its members to interrupt and correct lies that may endanger lives. Support public policies that call for combating media misinformation and hateful speech and provide educational resources to identify misinformation on all platforms. Support legislative acts that include public education teaching an accurate and complete history of all peoples who make up this country.

- [2018-A230](#): Condemn Unjust Scapegoating: Condemn political attacks and derogatory language rooted in unjust scapegoating of groups based on race, class, religion, national identity, gender, and sexuality.
- [2018-B009](#): Encourage Study and Practice of Civil Discourse and Bipartisanship: Urge Episcopalians to commit to civil discourse in political life and call for participation in bipartisan efforts and intentional engagement with elected officials from all political parties.
- [2018-C047](#): Support Voting Reforms that Achieve “One Person, One Vote”: Create a working group to study, define, and propose reforms by which civil government at all levels (local, state, and federal) may move closer toward making a reality of the principle of one person, one vote.
- [2018-D003](#): Call on Governments to Cease Voter Suppression and Increase Voter Participation: Call on governments to cease voter suppression efforts and work to increase voter participation. Reject gerrymandering and reaffirms that the votes of all eligible citizens must be fairly represented and counted regardless of race or ethnicity
- [2018-D071](#): Encourage Development of Grassroots Advocacy Networks: Challenge Episcopalians to engage in grassroots social justice advocacy and call for dioceses to create state advocacy networks.
- [2018-D096](#): Urge Advocacy for Good Governance and Fair Participation: Support government transparency in light of the rise of autocratic regimes and urge advocacy for good governance and civic participation around the world.
- [2015-A011](#): Urge Advocacy for Policy Changes to End Mass Incarceration Practices: In addition to other aims of the resolution, 2015-A011 calls for the church to “advocate for immediate return of the right to vote for those who have served their sentences and left prison.”
- [2012-C033](#): Support Voting Rights and Representation for the District of Columbia: Endorse the provision of the same political rights to residents of the District of Columbia as those enjoyed by other Americans, including the right to elect voting members of Congress.

Executive Council resolutions

- [102021.14](#): Authorize Advocacy for Voting Rights Protection: Decry efforts of state legislatures to restrict access to voting; support the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.
- [022020.31](#): Support for Measures to Ensure Free and Fair Elections: reaffirm recognition that the process of voting and political participation is an act of Christian stewardship; acknowledge the rise of mis- and disinformation campaigns and the need for safeguards; encourage fact-checking; direct the Office of Government Relations to advocate for policy to ensure free and fair elections and to promote government accountability in providing this necessary service, including: closing loopholes in current laws that allow for interference in elections; developing policies that prohibit interference in ballot initiatives; reducing the risk of electronic voting machines being hacked or other means of interference or manipulation; reducing the risk of voter personal information data

breaches; requiring paper back-up copies of cast ballots; reducing the spread of content that is false and designed to cause harm

- [102017.16](#): Fair and Equitable Representation for American Voters: affirm ‘one person, one vote,’ oppose partisan gerrymandering advocate against any form of political district mapping that has the effect of diluting the votes of people of color at the statewide and national level.
- [062016.07](#): Support for Campaign Finance Reform: renew call to the President and to U.S. Congress to restore and repair the Voting Rights Act; recognize the need for policy to delineate fair limitations on the influence of corporate interests in elections; reaffirm that voting and political participation are an act of Christian stewardship; urge Episcopalians to engage in legislative advocacy for campaign finance reform and other efforts to increase transparency in election finance and to reduce the influence of special interest money in politics.
- [102013.06](#): Support for Restoration of the Voting Rights Act: call upon President and the Congress of the United States to quickly pass and approve legislation to repair and restore the Voting Rights Act;
- [041991.08](#): Support for Federal Campaign Finance Reform: expressed support for the 1991 comprehensive federal campaign finance reform provisions being proposed in Congress and by the President, which included establishing voluntary public funding; dramatically reducing the role of contributions on the part of political action committees and major individual donors; and, protecting federal campaign spending limits by preventing the political parties from channeling through their state affiliates money targeted for candidates seeking national office.